

**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS  
STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING  
March 16, 2010**

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Koester Thomas called the meeting to order in the Fountain Hills Council Chambers at 3:03 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL**

Present for roll call were the following members of the Fountain Hills Strategic Planning Advisory Commission: Commissioner Mike Dooley, Vice Chair Curt Dunham, Commissioner Alan Magazine, Commissioner Charlotte McCluskey, Commissioner Allen Siebel, and Chair Audra Koester Thomas. Commissioner Rich Schultz joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Youth Commissioner Katie Myhr was excused from the meeting. Deputy Town Manager Julie Ghetti, Accounting Supervisor Mary Martin, and Recording Secretary Shaunna Williams were present. Town Manager Rick Davis joined the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM #3 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one appeared at the Call to the Public.

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING FEBRUARY 16, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Siebel **MOVED** to approve the February 16, 2010 meeting minutes and Commissioner Dooley **SECONDED** the motion, which **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 – TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE**

The Town Manager's update was postponed until later in the meeting due to the Town Manager's absence.

**AGENDA ITEM #6 –UPDATE ON TOWN FINANCES**

Accounting Supervisor Mary Martin gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Town budget entitled "General Fund – Operating Budget Overview FY2008-9 thru FY2010-11" (copy attached). Ms. Martin and Ms. Ghetti responded to questions from the Commissioners. Members of the Commission offered feedback relative to the proposed budget for FY2010-11, including the following:

- Decreasing fountain run times will get citizens engaged and will help to demonstrate how much the Town has already done to address budget concerns; reduction in services, like the fountain and streetscape, will illustrate the severity of the budget crisis
- Proposed budget is alarming; continuing to defer maintenance costs will result in astronomical long-term costs
- Staffing cutbacks in the parks may create a safety issue as personnel have a sentinel effect
- Budget crisis should be made known to residents
- Budget crisis underscores the need for a locally-controlled revenue source and a sustainable, balanced finance package

**AGENDA ITEM #7 – DISCUSS STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Chair Koester Thomas stated that she distributed copies of the initial review draft of the Strategic Plan Update (copy attached). She reviewed the philosophy of the plan and noted the goal of today's meeting is for SPAC to

feel confident regarding the direction of the plan. She encouraged Commissioners to send red-lined versions for wordsmithing. Commissioners then offered their comments and questions relative to the draft plan which included a discussion about the Idea Box; perceptions about the way the plan is written; key performance questions; and the consideration of an additional value entitled "Fiscal Sustainability."

Chair Koester Thomas requested that suggestions on other additions or modifications be provided to her by noon on Sunday, March 21, as the new working draft must be prepared and distributed to Council prior to the joint meeting between Council and SPAC that is scheduled for March 30.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8 – DISCUSS NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

Not discussed.

Chair Koester Thomas then inquired if Mr. Davis wished to present the Town Manager's Update.

Mr. Davis reported that the preliminary budget is being discussed with Town commissions to solicit feedback; revenue has continued to decline and departments are making further adjustments to their budgets; a joint meeting was held with the Fountain Hills Unified School District and some joint initiatives were identified; staff is working with the City of Scottsdale to bring a Google hi-speed fiber project to town; staff is working on an "involvement policy" to be used to gain Council approval when Town fiscal or physical resources, or staff support, are requested by organizations; an economic development project is being investigated for the downtown; and the water company is for sale.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #9 – SCHEDULE UPCOMING MEETINGS**

It was noted that the following SPAC meetings are presently scheduled: March 30, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. (joint meeting with the Town Council); April 20, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.; and May 18, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. The Commission agreed to establish an additional meeting on June 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #10 – ADJOURN**

Commissioner Magazine **MOVED** to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. and Commissioner McCluskey **SECONDED** the motion, which **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** by those present.



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Shaunna Williams, Recording Secretary